

BDAC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION WORK GROUP

Meeting Summary

July 24, 1996

The third meeting of the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group was held on Wednesday, July 24, 1996 at the Resources Building from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm.

BDAC members of the Work Group present were:

Invited participants to the Work Group were:

CALFED Staff present were:

Dick Daniel and Rick Soehren discussed the Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. The revised draft of the Strategy was discussed. The role of agriculture in the strategy for restoration was a major discussion topic. Concern was expressed that we were overlooking the ecological and economic value of agriculture.

Dick Daniel presented various approaches to setting targets for CALFED actions. Four methods were discussed. Concern focused around setting targets based on historical or predisturbance levels.

Dick Daniel and Rick Soehren received comment on the draft Adaptive Management Paper.

The following key points and questions were raised by the working group:

Ecosystem Restoration Strategy

- The ecological and economic value of agricultural lands should be considered in the restoration program.
- Indicators and targets for the program need further development.
- Adaptive management should be a major focus of the program.
- Concern about conversion of diked wetlands that already serve a valuable ecosystem role.
- Present targets in the plan are placeholders.
- CALFED needs to provide more guidance on the vision and targets.

Targets

- Blend the various approaches (i.e. reference period, historical, or predisturbance) to setting targets.
- Develop targets and get feedback.
- Focus on ecological functions, as well as species and habitat.
- Technical teams will be assembled to develop targets. Concern about who would be involved with setting targets.

- Concerns expressed about setting historical targets, because so much has changed.

Adaptive Management

- The institutional requirements of adaptive management must be addressed.
- Further refinement of the CALFED approach to adaptive management is needed.
- Adaptive management has been ongoing for years.
- Category III could be test bed for adaptive management.
- Need case studies of adaptive management to better understand how it will be used in CALFED program.
- To accomplish adaptive management there will be a need for mediating institution.
- Setting fixed targets may or may not be in conflict with adaptive management.